

In the claims:

1-26 (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) A text to voice messaging device, operating in conjunction with a television messaging system, having messaging software, the system comprising:

a set-top box in communication with the television messaging system, and adapted to deliver a message through a television coupled thereto;

a text receiving module executed in ~~the said~~ set-top box, and adapted to receive text from a user;

a text to speech module ~~executed in said television messaging system, and~~ coupled to said text receiving module for transforming said text into speech, said text to speech module adapted to produce a voice output corresponding to said text; ~~and,~~

a voice delivery module adapted to deliver said output ~~to said television messaging system; and~~

~~wherein said television messaging system is adapted to deliver said output as a~~ message to a target messaging system capable of receiving voice messages.

28. (Previously presented) The text to voice messaging device of claim 27 wherein said voice delivery module is adapted to transmit said output to the target voice messaging system in a voice data file format.

29. (Previously presented) The text to voice messaging device as of claim 27 wherein said television messaging system and said target messaging system are coupled via a telephony network link.

30. (New) The text to voice messaging device of claim 27, wherein said set-top box is coupled to said text to speech module via a telephony network.

31. (New) The text to voice messaging system of claim 27, wherein said set top box is in communication with said messaging system using a downstream network, and wherein text receiving module is coupled to said text to speech module utilizing an upstream network different than said downstream network.

32. (New) The text to voice messaging device of claim 27 further adapted to receive said text input via an upstream network selected from a group consisting of a television distribution network, a telephone network, a cellular network, a wireless network, a wired network, a satellite network, a terrestrial network, a DSL network, a data network or a combination thereof.

33. (New) A television messaging server, operating in conjunction with a television messaging system for delivering messages to a user, the server comprising:
a message delivery module for distributing a plurality of messages to a plurality of set-top boxes located in a respective plurality of user premises, for delivery of said messages utilizing a television;

a text receiving module coupled to a plurality of text entry devices, at least one of said text entry devices being operated in said user premises, for receiving text input therefrom;

a text to speech module executed on said server, and coupled to said text receiving module for transforming said text into speech, said text to speech module adapted to produce a voice output corresponding to said text; and,

a voice delivery module adapted to deliver said output to a target voice messaging system.

34. (New) The television messaging server of claim 33 further adapted to receive said text input via an upstream network selected from a group consisting of a television distribution network, a telephone network, a cellular network, a wireless network, a wired network, a satellite network, a terrestrial network, a DSL network, a data network or a combination thereof.

35. (New) The television messaging server of claim 33 wherein said output delivery module is adapted to transmit said output to the target voice messaging system in a voice data file format.

36. (New) The television messaging server of claim 33 wherein said output delivery module is adapted to transmit said output to the target voice messaging system in a speech format.

37. (New) The television messaging server of claim 33 wherein said target messaging server is integrated into said television messaging server.

38. (New) The television messaging server of claim 33 wherein said distribution of messages occurs over a downstream network, and wherein said text receiving module is coupled to said text entry devices utilizing an upstream network different from said downstream network.